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U-S ELECTIONS AND THE U-N
(TAPE INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

HOW MUCH DOES THE CURRENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN INFLUENCE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY? THAT'S A QUESTION THAT'S BEING ASKED AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AS WE HEAR IN THIS REPORT FROM JOHN GUERRINI.

ANNCR:

IN ALL THE MAJOR ITEMS ON THIS YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA -- SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER--THE UNITED STATES HAS A STRONG INTEREST. GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SHIRLEY AMERASINGHE OF SRI LANKA WAS ASKED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE THURSDAY IF THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY MIGHT NOT BE HANDICAPPED BY THE AMERICAN ELECTION.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- AMERASINGHE

"THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT A GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION HAS COINCIDED WITH A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE UNITED STATES. MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT THE UNITED STATES ITSELF DID. IT COULD HELP THE ASSEMBLY TO DISPOSE OF PROBLEMS WITHOUT ALLOWING THE ELECTION ISSUES TO INTERFERE WITH THEM, OR IT COULD ADOPT A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE. SO FAR AS THE ASSEMBLY ITSELF IS CONCERNED, I AM SURE THEY WOULD NOT WANT ANYTHING TO INTERFERE WITH THE ORDERLY PROGRESS OF THE SESSION OR WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUES SHOULD BE DEALT WITH."

ANNCR:

LATER, U-S AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SCRANTON RAN INTO THE SAME QUESTION; "IS THE ELECTION HAMPERING AMERICA'S WORK AT THE U-N?"

TAPE: CUT TWO -- SCRANTON

"I HAVE HAD NO FEELING OF HAMPERING WHATSOEVER. BEGINNING LAST FEBRUARY, EVEN BEFORE I WAS OFFICIALLY APPOINTED HERE, WHEN THEY FIRST ASKED ME TO DO THIS JOB, I HAD A NUMBER OF COMMENTS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY CONCERNING TWO FIELDS. ONE WAS SOUTHERN AFRICA

AND THE OTHER WAS THE MIDDLE EAST. AND THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID IN MY HEARING DIRECTLY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER TO HIM IN EITHER OF THESE INSTANCES OR ANY OTHER MAJOR PROBLEM OF WORLD PEACE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HIM WITH REGARD TO THE ELECTION IF THERE WAS AN EFFORT WE COULD TAKE THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL OR JUST THE EFFORT ITSELF WAS WORTHWHILE AND HE WAS ALL FOR OUR DOING IT. AND I KNOW HE MEANS THIS."

ANNCR:

ONE ITEM THAT IS WIDELY THOUGHT TO BE AFFECTED BY THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS THE ADMISSION OF VIETNAM. THE QUESTION WAS RECENTLY POSTPONED UNTIL NOVEMBER BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND MISTER AMERASINGHE SAID IT'S HIS FEELING THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTED THE MATTER DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS TO KEEP IT FROM BECOMING A CAMPAIGN ISSUE. BUT AMBASSADOR SCRANTON SAID AMERICA'S POSITION ON VIETNAM IS NOT, AS HE PUT IT, "A PURELY ELECTION FOCUS." HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED THAT THE VIETNAMESE SHOULD FURNISH INFORMATION ON AMERICANS STILL LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION. AMBASSADOR SCRANTON SAID VIETNAM HAS BEEN USING INFORMATION ON AMERICAN MIA'S AS A BARGAINING CHIP FOR ECONOMIC AID. AND THAT, HE SAID, IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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JS/RTD